

## **Abstract of the Invention**

### **METHOD OF CONTROLLING AN EXTERNAL OBJECT SENSOR FOR AN AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE**

The present invention comprises a method of external object sensing for an automobile. The method comprises the steps of establishing a vehicle operational criteria for initiating a vehicle operational safety feature, determining a sensor beam coverage area for the vehicle operational criteria or the vehicle operational safety feature, receiving a status parameter representing the operational status of the vehicle and activating the sensor for scanning the sensor beam coverage area when the status parameter meets the vehicle operational criteria.